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The ANSGAR LUTHERAN



News and Notes

We are sorry that we spoke out of turn in our editorial October 25th pertaining to our Seminary. In our recent attendance of the Joint Union Committee meeting at Minneapolis, Minn., we had these points emphasized that there will be no pre-determination as to any institution's future in the new church. When we wrote our comments we had the best interest of both the faculty and the seminary in mind. But this shows how wrong you can be.

Read the statement below by Pastor Alvin Petersen.

RELATIVE TO TRINITY SEMINARY A Statement by the Chairman of the Board of Education

United Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Board of Education appreciates the positive and constructive reply made by the Seminary Faculty to the recent editorial appearing in the October 25th issue of The Ansgar Lutheran. The Board endorses in principle the content of this statement.

The members of the Board of Education are quite aware of some of the problems which confront the merging churches, especially in the field of higher education. The Board of Education is keeping abreast, as best it can, of the merger developments as they will affect our institutions, Dana College and Trinity Seminary. So far no mandate has been given to the Board, either from the United Evangelical Lutheran Church or its Church Council, or by the Union Committee to draw up plans for the future and place of our schools in the "merged" church.

Therefore, 1) Whatever the fate or future of our Seminary in the merged Church, the Board of Education will continue to strengthen the Seminary and to improve its facilities and to encourage the faculty members by providing opportunity for graduate study, so that they may better serve our Church in this most important trust of training men for the ministry.

2) The Board of Education encourages students of our Synod to take their training at our Seminary and solicits their maximum loyalty.

The members of the Board of Education are open at all times to constructive suggestions that will help the Board in carrying out its responsibility to the Synod in the field of higher education. We do not believe, however,

that it is a part of wisdom to indulge in speculative editorializing or disseminating "off the cuff" opinions, especially in matters which affect the very structure and future of our church.

—Alvin M. Petersen

Fremont, Nebraska, Pastor Archie L. Madsen. A campaign to raise \$100,000 for a new church has just been successfully concluded. The Wells organization conducted the campaign.

The newly built Lutheran Parsonage at Brush, Colo., was dedicated Sunday, Nov. 14. 55th anniversary services were also held that day. Pastor Archie Madsen of Fremont, Nebraska was guest speaker. The present pastor is the Rev. Jerrold Elling.

NOTICE TO LUTHERAN 4-H'ERS

Special plans are being made for Lutheran 4-H'ers who will be attending the National 4-H Club Congress at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago from November 28 to December 2, according to an announcement by the Rev. E. W. Mueller, secretary of the Lutheran God-Home-Country Award Committee. Co-operating in arrangements for the Lutheran youth are the Committee and the Lutheran Council of Greater Chicago.

Most 4-H members are expected to arrive on the Friday or Saturday preceding the Congress, and the Lutheran 4-H'ers will have an opportunity to go as a group to a Lutheran Church for Sunday Worship services. Club members are asked to visit the Award Committee's special headquarters on Saturday, November 27, to get further information about the worship services. Literature about the God-Home-Country Award will also be distributed there.

Those attending can locate Lutheran headquarters by inquiring at the main convention desk at the Conrad Hilton or by calling Pastor Mueller's office, WA-bash 2-2482.

Minneapolis Seems Favored As Site for LWF Assembly

New York—Selection of the site of the Third Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, to be held in the United States in 1957, has been deferred until April of next year by the executive committee of the National Lutheran Council.

After discussion of the subject at a

recent meeting in Chicago, the committee decided to postpone action until further information is available on character and scope of the Assembly. It is expected that details will be forthcoming from the annual meeting of LWF's executive committee in Vienna, Austria, next February.

Judging from comments of committee members during consideration of the question, the choice of a state for the assembly has been narrowed down to three possibilities, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Pa., and Purdue University at West Lafayette, Ind., with sentiment seeming to favor Minneapolis.

In expressing their views, several committee members stressed the hope that both the size and the program of the Assembly would be limited, with only a few public sessions scheduled, in order that most of the ten-day meeting could be devoted to the federation's problems and responsibilities.

It seemed the consensus that attendance at the Assembly should be held by 1,000 persons, half delegates and half consultants, with few, if any, general visitors, except for one or two special programs or rallies. No attempt should be made, it was felt, to rival the recent Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches as a spectacle.

Lutheran Leader Condemns Church Bingo

Youngstown, O.—Dr. Paul C. Empie of New York, executive director of the National Lutheran Council, condemns church bingo and raffles in the course of a Festival of Faith address here.

"The typical believer believes he is being religious and that he is doing good work when he supports raffles and bingo," Dr. Empie said. But he charged that the practice is undermining churches by encouraging the gambling instinct of "get something for nothing."

"We can't buy goodwill," he said, "we can't bribe God, and we can't bribe nations."

The Lutheran director spoke to more than 2,500 persons at the festival sponsored jointly by the Lutheran Pastors' Conference here and the Youngstown Council of Churches.

Dr. Empie's main theme was that the issues of the Reformation still exist and they are: justification by faith alone; authority of the Scriptures; and the universal priesthood of believers.

THE ANSGAR LUTHERAN. Official Organ of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, published weekly by Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr.

Otto H. Stave, Business Manager. Subscription price: United States and Canada, \$3.00 per year in advance; foreign countries, \$4.00. All communications that concern the Editorial Department, news items and books to be reviewed should be sent to the editor at Spencer, Iowa. Everything pertaining to the Youth Department should be sent to Rev. Homer Larsen, 904 Bluff St., Cedar Falls, Ia. A special club rate of \$2.00 per year is offered Bible classes and organizations of the church when ten or more copies are sent to one address, and \$2.00 a year for the congregation has The Ansgar Lutheran in every home—Church Paper in Every Home Plan. Subscriptions, remittances, change of address, advertisements and all communications pertaining to the Business Department should be sent to the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr. When CHANGE OF ADDRESS is desired give old as well as new address. Entered as second-class matter, December 14, 1927, at Post Office at Blair, Nebr., under Act of March 3, 1879.

Much of our news is received from Religious News Service, and the News Bureau of the National Lutheran Council.

JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor
321 E. 8th Street
Spencer, Iowa

Editorials and Comments

THE MERGER

Tuesday, Nov. 9, the merger committee met at Minneapolis, Minn. Reports were heard about the vote on the merger of the four synodical conventions the past summer. The votes had been almost unanimous in every case, except for the Lutheran Free Church which will vote next year. Now the joint Union Committee met to begin to work on the constitution of the new church, the charter, and the articles of union. Most of the day was spent on the calendar. This means the assignment of work and the time it is to be completed. 1955 will be a very busy year. By the end of that year these matters should be settled.

Now officers of the merger committee were elected. During the four previous years Dr. Hans C. Jersild has been the chairman. He has done a fine job. It was natural, perhaps, that he should be chairman during the years that the United Testimony of Faith and Life and the Report on Policy should be worked out because our synod presented the original resolutions on the merger. These problems have now been passed to the respective synods, and we enter into a new problem, that of deciding on articles of union, which involves a number of practical matters. Therefore it was decided that no synodical president should be chairman of the Joint Union Committee. This gives the presidents greater opportunity to speak in behalf of their own synods. Dr. Tillman M. Sogge was elected chairman of the committee. He is a layman, professor at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. Dr. Wm. L. Brung, a layman of the A.L.C., was re-elected secretary. The first meeting of the whole Joint Union Committee was for March 29-30.

July 5-6-7 the Joint Union Committee will meet with all the different boards of the four churches at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

All we can say about the merger is that we have reached the point of no return. We may not have found our landing place, but we cannot return.

Until the Joint Union Committee meets again in March, the sub-committee on polity and organization will have a number of meetings. Dr. T. O. Burntvedt of the Lutheran Free Church is chairman of that committee. The L.F.C. is not yet sure of its course in this merger. The other three bodies hope that L.F.C. will come in on the same basis as they do. Be that as it may, Dr. Burntvedt has been a fine chairman on this sub-committee. He has been able to guide the negotiations in a most friendly manner. He has shown an insight into American Lutheranism that is remarkable. The Lutheran Free Church is fortunate to have such a leader at this crucial moment. He shows a fine evangelical spirit, which the three other churches hope to be able to bring into the new church.

Some 50 years ago, when the spirit of the old country dominated much of the Lutheran picture in the Middle West, it was natural that the Lutheran Free Church should come into being. But many of the principles of the Lutheran Free Church have now become part of the life of the other Lutherans. So as far as we can see, the L.F.C. can now join the rest of us with a good conscience.

THOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING

An Open Letter by Dr. Paul C. Empie

Executive Director, National Lutheran Council

It is Thanksgiving Day. I have so much to be thankful for—at the least being this day at home, to relax and reflect! Yet day long the birth-pangs of this letter have given me no rest! Now it is evening, and I'm on the road again, en route west. Still it's no use—this letter must be written before I can sleep!

It began in church this morning, when again I counted my blessings—so many of them!—and asked “why?” It would be easy to say “because I deserved them,” but it wouldn't be true. God sends his sun to bless alike the just and the unjust, the murderer and benefactor, the Mohammedan, Atheist and Christian. If merit were the basis of heaven—sent prosperity,—as most think it should be—the laws of nature would have to be selective to the point of being scrambled most of the time. Yet I'm sure God's impartiality is not personal—it's all a part of His fixed design and purpose. How grateful would I be if I hadn't so many things to enjoy? I don't know. I can only speculate. But I'm helped by the preservation of others in recent years who had lost everything, and still praised and trusted God. That deaconess at the Russian-ravished orphanage in Slovakia; that Polish doctor in former East Prussia with his two motherless daughters; that brilliant choir director and teacher with his class of the refugee barracks in Bavaria; that student from the East Zone of Germany who had come to the Berlin Kirchenplatz last July, and had to return to face his totalitarian officials the following week; that aged exiled D.P. bishop who lived in tiny impoverished quarters, refused to emigrate to

the comfort of the new world, but preferred to stay until the end with the “hard core” remnant of his people for whom every door remained shut; and others too numerous to mention. The test of their thanks was based not in “things” but in “thoughts” infused with an indestructible dynamic faith.

But that doesn't answer my question “why?” Is there an answer? There must be. Could it be this, that when our Lord related the parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate the fulfillment of the second greatest commandment—“love thy neighbor as thyself,” He listed two categories of people, the **helpers** and the **helped**? That He gives the “helpers” special resources only to enable them to fulfill their function? That while the circumstances of each category differ vastly, the blessings generated through the helper helped relationship flow both ways, each party making a powerful witness in his special role? And that the whole framework of Christian existence contains a steady balance of those two—and only these two—categories, the relationship between which forms a channel for the revelation of God's power and grace?

If there be any truth in this suggestion, as I think there must be, then we have much thinking to do about Thanksgiving. May I list a few principles?

1. The **things** for which we are thankful are but a means to an end.
2. That end is the demonstration of God's love through our obedient use of His gifts.

(Continued on page 15)

Behind The Plush Curtain

By Russell R. Kauffman*

Condensed from "The Alliance Weekly"

Winston Churchill a few years ago coined the phrase "Behind the Iron Curtain." It was not long before the words were carried to the Far East, and the term "Behind the Bamboo Curtain" became a familiar one.

Recently two missionaries were flying home from a desolate outpost. For months they had suffered the misery of the bitter cold; sometimes they had gone for weeks without proper food. Their lonely nights had been spent longing for loved ones and wondering what they were doing back in America. Now these men were flying through another night, but this night, unlike the others, was to end in a beautiful day. Silently they sat, for the excitement of the near end of their exile made sleep impossible. Suddenly one looked at his watch and remarked, "We've just crossed the 'Bamboo Curtain,' and within a few hours we'll be behind the 'Plush Curtain.'"

Behind the Plush Curtain—America—men live so differently from the way they do in the lands beyond the seas. No one really goes hungry, for food is plentiful. There are no lonely nights behind the Plush Curtain, for Satan has done his work well. The gay nights are filled with mad music, and the bright lights of the city illuminate the skies, beckoning to all to come and be merry. If by chance a man is suddenly jolted into thinking of eternity the shock is cushioned by the softness of a thousand pleasures, and soon he is whirled into the "plastic dance of circumstance" again.

LUXURY

Behind the Plush Curtain gadgets and buttons, two-car garages and drive-in banks are all designed to save precious hours of time. Clothes are laundered while we sleep; dishes are washed while we watch our favorite program. But the hours we save are spent in ease, for Satan is ever vigilant.

Behind the Plush Curtain eyes bright with the vision of God are blinded by sin with the film of indolence and indifference. The heart that once thrilled with the possibilities of reaching lost tribes for Christ now beats with an organic disorder of lethargy. The missionary speaks, sometimes with lost fluency because he has sacrificed the words of his mother tongue for the crude-sounding syllables of a heathen dialect. His voice trembles and inside there is a passion to make known the needs of the heathen, but somehow he cannot seem to speak what is in his heart. We sit in the pews and glance slyly at our watches, for we would conceal our restlessness and desire to get home.

Behind the Plush Curtain the potential of wealth is unlimited. I have been wondering these days what would happen if one church in each city across America were to catch the vision of reaching men for Christ. What if every city had one pastor whose heart glowed with fire and zeal for the message of missions to which the Holy Spirit has given priority?

UNCONCERN

Behind the Plush Curtain we have churches where home conventions are strategically placed so that pocketbooks are drained before the missionary convention is held. Offerings for the building program are given with prominence over the missionary offerings. We substitute extension programs because we have grown cold in our love for the souls of men of every tongue.

Behind the Plush Curtain God's inevitable laws are alive today as they were in the days when Dr. Simpson poured out his heart, staggering beneath the weight of the whole world. Six hundred million souls who have never heard the name of Jesus wait for the Bread of Life, and Jesus says, "Give ye them to eat."

"But, Master," comes the answer, "we are so few and they are so many."

But God says again, "Give ye them to eat," and so a few of us go, defying all laws of reason known to natural man. We tell our people to give, to give and to forgive everything but the heathen. A few of us have experienced the thrill and the joy which the disciples had when they went out with the bread and the fishes to feed the multitude. The more we break off and give, the more we find in our hands. The farther back we travel the more abundant the supply remaining in our hands. God's law in this respect is as immutable as the law of gravity. We give, but we still have. They take from us, but we still have so much left.

THE POSSIBILITY

Can we not have in America one church in each city burning with zeal to reach the ends of the earth for Christ? Would this please God? Would God bless us if we would lay our churches on the altar and say, "Use them, Lord, to feed the multitude beyond the sea?" What if all selfish desires were laid aside and suddenly our youth could see that we have a message that is practical, challenging, all-consuming? It would be a new day for us. Let us take advantage of our position behind the Plush Curtain.

CHURCH NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

African Church Leaders Vote to Abandon "Bride Price" Custom

native pastors in the Belgian Congo, meeting recently in a "for Africans" conference in Leopoldville, voted to recommend that Christian leaders in African church no longer accept traditional bride price when their daughters are given in marriage. This will undoubtedly mean the beginning of a new era when Christian will no longer pay francs for their daughters," Margaret Lindquist, Covenant missionary in the Belgian Congo, reports.

The Christian African in the Congo has now begun this new practice, but the trend has not as yet reached the peasant field in the Ubangi bush-land, Miss Lindquist states.

However, it will cost the Christian African on the Covenant's field to take this step, Miss Lindquist points out. Natives will make it difficult for the Christian. They will sneer, "Why, if you do not get a good price for your daughter, she must not be any good. The better the price, the better the daughter, is it not so? Does not the native get a share of the price also, a tidy sum—goats or chickens—each child that is born into the new family? A son isn't as much use to his father for he will not bring any francs, but he will get a good price for his daughter. She is a good woman, pounds much corn flour, she plants a garden, she carries heavy loads of wood on her head, she goes for water and carries the heavy mbeki (water pot) on her head, not spill a drop, and the best yet, she will

bear many children. She is worth a good price!"

The young women themselves will also object. She will cry, "Not to give francs, goats and chickens for me. That is much shame on me for am I not a good woman? And how can I return to my father when my husband beats me? My father will not want me back if he does not get more money when my husband comes for me again. Don't you see if my husband is not good to me, he will have to pay my father more francs, and if I am not a good wife my father will punish me or else he must return the francs for his worthless daughter."

Daniel Tshisungu, a native pastor who voted for the recommendation at Leopoldville conference, visited the Covenant's field recently and told the natives about this new practice, Miss Lindquist reports.

Tshisungu told the natives, "This is the civilizing time." He said, "Yes we will marry for love, and we will give our money to God. We will educate our children, our daughters as well as our sons. We want to know more about the world, we want to buy more things, we want more clothes on our naked bodies, we want to learn a trade and we want to know more about Jesus."

The conference which Tshisungu attended and at which the recommendation was passed was the result of a recommendation by the Congo Protestant Council that a group of leading Congo pastors meet to discuss the development of the church of Christ in Congo. —Covenant Weekly.

HOW FAR CAN THEY GO?

Down in Chapel Hill, N. C., the board of aldermen of the city have decreed that in the new municipal cemetery now under construction, racial segregation shall be carried out—whites and Negroes must be buried in separate sections.

Needless to say, the action has resulted in a strong protest on the part of sixteen clergymen of the community, who have demanded that at least a portion of the cemetery shall be designated as non-segregated ground.

The Rev. John D. Riebel, spokesman for the pastors, told the aldermen that their request represents a compromise and that they favored complete non-segregation. However, he added, they realized that "this is the South, and this is 1954."

Another letter of protest came to the aldermen from Dr. Arthur E. Fink, head of the University of North Carolina School of Social Work, who wrote:

"If we really believed and practiced the teachings of Jesus, a matter of this kind would be settled in such a way that we could feel proud of the support of Christian morality and decency.

"My question is whether the board of aldermen have tried to determine what their fellow Christians would want them to do. Furthermore, if our aldermen could be sure of what Christian teachings would require of them, might it not be well to follow such teachings?"

We would only add: How far can they go? Will these proud mortals who refuse to lie in the same burial ground

(Continued on page 6)

THE UPROOTED

By Henriette Lund

hundred thousand people homeless and strange in a foreign land: as strong as all the dwellers in one city—my native Minneapolis, let us say, as great as all who live in twenty counties of my home state of Minnesota, who, noted, gave freely from their own soil, the soil of their fathers, Swedes, Poles, Bulgars, and many others filled now with their small belongings Austria, herself impoverished, small in power and resources, looking with unconcealed dismay on visitors, uninvited and unwelcome.

This, my friend, we found upon our arrival there Our small group, emissaries of the world-wide Lutheran

Church, Sent to help within our limited power to ease the burdens of the homeless

To play a role as Christ, we believe, would have us play it, With no thought about the creed or class or rectitude of those in need of succor.

Our band was small, and Austria is only one of many lands to harbor homeless.

The heart of our Church is large and will salvage from the wreckage, humans made in God's image, near destruction by man-made wars and ruthlessness.

How Far Can They Go?

(Continued from page 5)

with their dark-skinned fellow men also demand a private compartment in heaven—if they get there?

It is encouraging to know that the Church is definitely taking the lead in all sections of the country in supporting the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in schools. The next step must be to create a Christian conscience against racial discrimination in all its forms.

—Lutheran Companion.

Methodists Give Lutherans A Church

St. Charles, Ill.—Members of First Methodist church here voted unanimously to give their former church and parsonage to a neighboring Lutheran congregation.

They decided to make an outright gift of the \$85,000 plant to St. Mark's Lutheran church, a Missouri Synod congregation.

In September, the Methodists dedicated a new \$1,250,000 church, a gift of Col. Edward J. Baker of St. Charles, 86-year-old millionaire hotel owner, philanthropist and sportsman. He gave the church, along with a generous trust fund for its maintenance, as a memorial to his late parents, founding members of the 117-year-old pioneer Methodist congregation.

The Lutherans, hard-pressed for space in an inadequate frame church, already had purchased a site for a new church when they were informed of the gift.

The gift of a church from one denomination to another is believed to have no precedent, officials of the

churches asserted.

Lutherans will move into the former Methodist edifice, a brick structure trimmed with stone built in 1908, as soon as legal problems are settled, the Rev. Wilbur Zielke, the Lutheran pastor, said.

"It was a magnanimous act on the part of Col. Baker and The Methodist Church," Mr. Zielke said. "We deeply appreciate this display of Christian love."

Church leaders believe Col. Baker's memorial is the largest gift of a single person to a single congregation in Methodist history. The new cathedral-like church occupies a square block fronting on Main St.

The Lutherans will sell their old church and parsonage, using the proceeds to renovate the former Methodist building.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

	Total Received	Chil- dren's Homes	School Fund	General Fund	Home Mission	Indian Mission	Utah Mission	Pen- sion Fund
Total synodical budget \$256,668.60								
Previously acknowledged	61375.34	3964.10	22387.17	6351.97	14833.31	2447.94	600.12	10790.7
Staplehurst, Nebr., Ladies Aid of Our Savior's Luth. Church	10.00					10.00		
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Mr. and Mrs. Hans Knudsen of Trinity Church	10.00					10.00		
Hampton, Nebr., in memory of Robert Jorgensen from a large group of friends	15.00							15.00
Milltown, Wis., Milltown Luth. Church	200.00		75.00	25.00	50.00			50.00
North Hollywood, Calif., Valley Luth. Church	440.00	25.00	200.00	15.00	100.00	20.00		80.00
Hazelwood, Minn., Ladies Aid of Immanuel Luth. Church	93.00	17.00	17.00		17.00	17.00		25.00
Avoca, Ia., English Luth. Church	75.00		25.00		25.00			25.00
Webster Groves, Mo., Bethany Ladies Aid Society in memory of Pastor and Mrs. C. C. Mengers	10.00							10.00
Selma, Calif., in memory of Niels T. Larsen: Carol Wick, Fresno \$5; Mr. and Mrs. H. Marthedahl, Easton \$3	8.00							
Blair, Nebr., Miss Naomi Sorensen in memory of Dora Pedersen, Wolbach, Nebr.	1.00				8.00			
Fremont, Nebr., Norman L. Freund of Daneville Church, Westby, Mont., in memory of Ezra Jensen, Westby	15.00		15.00		1.00			
Sidney, Mont., Oluf Rasmussen of Brorson Church in memory of Dora Pedersen, Wolbach, Nebr.	6.00				6.00			
Geneva, Minn., William and Mary Erbach of Community Church in memory of Edwin C. Olsen	100.00		50.00		25.00			25.00
Dickson, Heckly and Kevisville Sunday School Rally	21.48					21.48		
Dickson, Alberta, Canada, Bethany Luth. Church	321.31	21.31	150.00		100.00			50.00
Palmouth, Me., Emmaus Luth. Church	100.00				100.00			
Council Bluffs, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hansen and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dittmars in memory of Mrs. Christina Jensen, Neola, Ia.	5.00	5.00						
Bowbells, N. D., Bethlehem Luth. Church	600.00	25.00	175.00	25.00	150.00	25.00		200.00
Milwaukee, Wis., Kingo Luth. Church	100.00		40.00		30.00			30.00
Hutchinson, Minn., Main Street Luth. Church	180.00	15.00	50.00	15.00	40.00	15.00	5.00	40.00
Cordova, Nebr., Our Savior's Luth. Church	11.35				11.35			
Selma, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Nelson in memory of Mrs. A. P. Sontum, Petaluma, Calif.	2.00	2.00						
Coulter, Ia., from friends in memory of Mrs. Christ Schmidt of Nazaerth Church	9.50				9.50			
San Francisco, Calif., Ansgar Luth. Church	70.00		25.00		25.00			20.00
Greenville, Mich., St. Paul's Ev. Luth. Church	200.00	15.00	50.00	15.00	50.00	15.00	5.00	50.00
Penn Yan, N. Y., St. Paul's Ev. Luth. Church	147.58		147.58					
Poy Sippi, Wis., First Engl. Luth. Church	250.00		100.00		75.00			75.00
Exira, Ia., in memory of Mrs. Miller Kyndsen: Laura Bro \$1, Martin and Christine Toft \$2	3.00				3.00			
Audubon, Ia., Ebenezer Luther League	30.00				30.00			
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Trinity Luth. Ladies Aid	30.00	30.00						
Council Bluffs, Ia., Mrs. Johanne Eriksen and Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Axelssen in memory of Mrs. Christina Jensen	5.00				5.00			
Staplehurst, Nebr., Our Savior's Luth. Church	44.70			44.70				
Racine, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church	625.00		400.00					225.00
Fremont, Nebr., First Luth. Churchwomen	62.80				62.80			
Washington Island, Wis., Trinity Luth. Church, mission offering	16.36				10.00	6.36		
Greenville, Mich., St. Paul's Ev. Luth. Ladies Aid, for the two Children's Homes	10.00	10.00						
Graettinger, Ia., St. Paul's Luth. Church	800.00	100.00	400.00	50.00	200.00			50.00
Harlan, Ia., Immanuel Luth. Church	150.00			150.00				
Fremont, Nebr., First Luth. Church	600.00	40.00	250.00	50.00	100.00	50.00	10.00	100.00
Fremont, Nebr., in memory of Mrs. J. C. Jensen: Esther Persons \$2, Willing Workers of First Luth Church \$10	12.00							
Fremont, Nebr., in memory of Dora Pedersen, Wolbach, Nebr.: Mrs. John Brandt, Anna Brandt, Millie Henriksen and Elnora Jensen	4.00						12.00	
Fremont, Nebr., First Luth. Church, in memory of Rex Ogard, Mrs. J. C. Jensen, Henry Gerken, Willis White, Mrs. Edith Custer and							4.00	

(Continued on page 14)

Our Foreign Mission Fields

Edited by Rev. K. R. Jensen, Viborg, South Dakota

Our Lutheran Witness to Latin Americans

By Arnfeld C. Morek

ving often been asked why we should carry on mission-work in predominantly Roman Catholic countries, I have osely stated the topic in this way, for I believe that we a witness not only in Latin America but also to Latin ricans. Thus stated, the theme involves a missionary enge.

e Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 knows no daries. But there are those who sincerely fear that by g direct missionary work in a "Catholic" country we are n conflict with the principles expressed by the first great stian world missionary: "Thus making it my ambition to h the Gospel, not where Christ has been named, lest I on another man's foundation" (Rom. 15:20).

t me say at the outset that it depends on what we under- l by the phrase "where Christ has been named." It also nds greatly upon the nature of the local approach, be it g Protestants or Catholics.

A Part of Christendom

twithstanding its lamentable distortion of the Gospel, ecognize Roman Catholicism as a part of Christendom nence do not rebaptize converts who come to us from faith. We discard only that which is in open conflict the Word of God and all that tends to focus the devo- of the believer on things and persons other than Christ. ile we confess that the church exists where the Gospel ritly taught and the sacraments are rightly administered, so admit its existence in the midst of error and apathy hroughout Christendom. The church's true manifestation is in direct proportion to the fidelity with which the great mission of Christ is carried out.

Lutheran will deny that this true manifestation of the h exists in so limited a form within the pale of Roman- s to make it extremely difficult for the individual to to the true faith in Christ as the only and all-sufficient r of man. We need only think of the difficult and tem- ous struggle through which Luther passed before find- est in the assurance of justification by faith. In that gle the Reformation has its origin.

Need for Reformation

e reason for the Reformation is the same reason which sitates the Evangelical missionary witness in Latin ica today. To deny this need and our responsibility for oman Catholic world is to deny that the Reformation ustifiable. We need not apologize for the historical as- of our existence. We trace our origin clearly and direct- ck through the ecumenical creeds to the apostolic church ts Divine Founder. And even in speaking of denomina- or the existing divisions within present-day Christen- we are about a generation older than the Roman Catho- church. As a denomination, we date from Augsburg, 1530; oman Catholic Church from Trent, 1545-63. If the Re- ation was justifiable in the sixteenth century, its message t only justifiable but urgently needed in the twentieth y when we face not only the errors so tenaciously de- at Trent, but also those of the subsequent dogmas, ne of which militates against some important phase of faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, and consistently di- the devotion of the individual from Christ to Mary. Trent, Romanism has increasingly become less Chris- and more Marian. This trend is obvious even to the l observer of Latin American Romanism. Even in the

observance of Ascension Day, Corpus Christi, and the Sacred Heart, when one would expect that Christ should be the ob- ject of honor and devotion, it is Mary who "steals the thun- der."

Not only in the spiritual but in the social application of the Gospel has Romanism proved inadequate in Latin America. Illiteracy, intolerance and injustice exist in proportions that are a too eloquent commentary on the four centuries of un- impeded Roman Catholic sway in this continent. Let me refer to a few practical aspects of this problem as seen in Co- lombia:

Recognized Needs

With Colombia's population at about 12,000,000, 2,800,000 Columbian adults are illiterate, and 1,400,000 of Colombia's 2,331,286 children between the ages of 7 and 14 years are not in school for lack of facilities to educate them. Only one out of every 100 children in the rural areas who start primary school reaches the fourth year of instruction. In spite of these figures (taken from the May 21, 1954, issue of "El Tiempo," Colombia's leading daily), 110 Protestant schools remained closed on the Colombian mainland. Contrasted with this are the Islands of San Andres and Providencia (Colombian ter- ritory in the Caribbean) with almost complete literacy in spite of more adverse economic circumstances. The inhabi- tants are at least 85% Protestant.

While the Catholic hierarchy here insists that Colombia is not a "mission field" (for Protestants), the Colombian gov- ernment signs a concordat with the Vatican in which nearly three-fourths of the country's area is designated as "Mission Territory" where the Roman Catholic Church enjoys the ex- clusive right to educate and where severe restrictions are placed upon Protestant worship. This, in spite of the scarcity of Roman priests in this area. "For this vast region, 331,000 square miles, containing 1,064,000 people, there are 200 Ro- man Catholic missionary priests. This means that each priest must oversee an area of 1,660 square miles of difficult terrain in which there lives an average of 5,323 persons" (CEDEC Bulletin No. 12, Nov. 30, 1953).

Religious Intolerance

It should be borne in mind that the concordat and the clerical formula on religious tolerance, as accepted by a vote of eight against six in the committee on constitutional studies, stand in sharp conflict with the declarations of religious liberty of the United Nations and the Organization of Ameri- can States, both of which are subscribed to by Colombia. This discrepancy is explained by the official Roman Catholic posi- tion on religious liberty; namely, that of accepting religious liberty according to Protestant principles where Catholics are a minority and of denying the same freedom according to Catholic principles where Protestants are a minority.

While Lutherans in Germany open their churches and homes to Catholic pilgrims at a religious rally, 43 Protestant churches and chapels in Colombia are laid in ruins by priest- incited mobs, and 52 Colombian Protestants die as martyrs.

Luis E. Nieto Caballero, outstanding Colombian writer, con- cludes his recent powerful appeal for religious liberty with the following words: "Twenty thousand Protestants in a country of twelve million Catholics ask to be allowed to live in peace, to worship the Creator as they understand Him, with the singing of their psalms, with the reading of the

(Continued on page 15)

A Feather in Your Hat

By Edmund E. Train

The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
—II Cor. 9:6-10 (R.S.V.)

I would be greatly embarrassed if I as a person found it necessary to ask you to give me a contribution. But I am not embarrassed to ask something of you in the name of Christ and his church. My Lord's kingdom is worthy of everything that men can give it. As the Lord's messenger, and as your minister, I have something to ask of you. I do not ask you to give to one who gives nothing in return. As a matter of fact, I ask you to give out of a sense of obligation, for you are indebted to the church.

If you'll put your ear to the ground, you will hear much complaining about the church: how it has failed to keep abreast of the times; that it has done little for its young people; how it has failed to minister to the needy; that it has neglected an individual here and there. But most of this can be consigned to petty criticism! The truth is that you and I are deeply in debt to the church, which has mothered us in the faith. Let us reflect upon the ways.

It has given us a sense of community.

Out of the great concourse of life the individual must find a smaller community of which he is a part. The church has provided for us such a community of friends, a people of "like precious faith." Here we are trusted. Here we share our burdens. Here our hearts are blended as one in hymns of praise and supplication.

Samuel J. Stone, who has written the words to the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation," refers beautifully to the church as the bride of Christ, (as does the New Testament) and thereafter speaks of the church in the feminine gender:

Elect from every nation; yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name **she** blesses, partakes one holy food;
And to one hope **she** presses, with ev'ry grace endued.
She, the creation of God, has been ordained to give you spiritual birth.

She ministers the grace of God.

She has given you an atmosphere for spiritual growth from earliest youth. To her God has committed his gospel—and in turn she has taught it to you. Through her ministers and teachers you have been instructed. Through the sacraments you have received heavenly grace. In hours of grief, illness, and solitude you have found solace in her arms. Yes, you have found her constant, 365 days in the year.

But, like a human mother, she has her faults and imperfections. Then, just as to a human mother in her weaknesses, you give even greater devotion, so you give to the church, with the failures of her humanity.

Then, as a minister, I ask in her behalf for your time

It takes someone's time to make the church successful. We may entertain beautiful thoughts of her: a congregation well dressed and comfortably seated on Sunday morning. But even a single service of worship does not "just happen." The preacher (contrary to the belief of many) has struggled for hours with himself and the message. Sunday school teachers have labored over difficult lessons so as to instruct their pupils. The choir blesses our worship with song, not out of monetary inspiration, but only after hours of painstaking preparation.

Time is a scarce commodity. Priorities on time usually go as follows: First place to one's employer, then to the up-keep of one's home; the balance of time must be divided among many interests such as the church, community service, hobbies, recreation, school activities, clubs, and social calls. In the shuffle the church all too often takes a place close to the bottom! How do I know? Because so often I have heard: "Sorry, Pastor, I don't have time."

I am not minimizing the legitimate demand upon people's time, but I am distressed that people have not placed a higher priority upon time spent in the Lord's work. If we are going to save the church in this crucial hour, we must sacrifice some of our time—time to attend church services and time for attending to the offices of the church's work.

Secondly, I ask you to give of your means.

Someone looks a little bit wan, and asks, "Does that mean money?" Yes, that is precisely what it means. Of course, not many of us can afford to be careless with our money. It represents the work of our hands; it is our livelihood. Therefore, we are careful to use it only when it brings direct benefit to us, or when our contribution is to a worthy cause.

In some areas of living, however, we feel quite free with our means. As long as we do not jeopardize our living, we may at times spend freely for pleasure. Our generosity, too, follows our moods, so that we make contributions when it is attractive to do so. Sometimes only a feather in one's hat will do the trick. Where the church is concerned memorial gifts are the easiest contributions to make!

The Lord's call to stewardship is a call to responsibility. It cannot depend upon our moods nor upon flattery. It is a clear call to a devoted and intelligent giving. The church today requires more in dollars for its sup-

rt than it did a few years ago. Yet some people have
ver considered increasing their gifts. Salary raises and
nuses, seemingly, have not been taken as a call to in-
eased stewardship! All too many people of average
eans place a dollar or less in the offering each Sunday
nd nothing if they are absent.) How does our Chris-
an conscience permit us to do this?

Do not misunderstand what the Lord is asking of you.

You cannot buy your way into the Lord's favor or in-
the good graces of the church. "Behold, to obey is
etter than sacrifice." (I Sam. 15:22) The Lord wants
ou. He wants your heart, your faith, your love, your
edience. Anything else is meaningless until you yield
our heart to him.

It is told that there was found in the papers of Thomas
arclay after his death a form of solemn commitment,
st signed on his 16th birthday while he was a student
Glasgow University. It reads in part as follows:

"This day do I, with the utmost solemnity, surrend-
er myself to thee, O God. I renounce all former lords
that have had dominion over me; and I consecrate to
thee all that I am and all that I have: the faculties of
my mind, the members of my body, my worldly pos-
sessions, my time, and my influence over others—all
to be used entirely for thy glory, and resolutely em-
ployed in obedience to thy commands, as long as thou
continuest me in life."

The signature on this document had been repeated, on
every birthday, between the ages of sixteen and eighty-
five years. Since his marriage it had also been signed
each year by his wife.

I ask you to search your own heart. Promise the Lord
your life. Promise him obedience. He will not ask you
for more than you can give. But do not withhold any-
thing that he asks of you. This is to sow bountifully.

—Covenant Weekly.

Illinois District Convention

By Edward Eskildsen

The annual convention of 1954 for the Illinois District
the U.E.L.C. was held from Sept. 16-19 at the Atone-
ent Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois. The conven-
on in this district is particularly edifying in view of the
ct that member churches are widely scattered through-
t four states. This convention offered much inspiration
d help to give a new impetus for the work of the
urch for the year.

The convention was marked by a number of inspiring
essages. The convention began on Thursday evening
th a sermon by Pastor Axel M. Andersen, the District
resident on "Our Need for a Crucial Day." This was
llowed by the formal opening of the convention by the
resident. On Friday morning Pastor Christian Bertel-
m conducted the devotion with a meditation on the
miraculous Draught of Fishes.

A fine feature of the convention was the discussion
essions. On Friday morning Pastor F. C. M. Hansen
ade a fine presentation of the topic "Evangelism Made
ffective in the Local Congregation through Preaching,
eaching, and Reaching" which was discussed in a
arching way by the convention. In the afternoon an-
ther topic was presented by Pastor Henry M. Hansen,
Our Sunday School Organization and Materials." There
as a comparison and evaluation of various types of Sun-
y School materials together with a discussion of pro-
ems faced by our Sunday Schools. These discussions
d much to give delegates and visitors a feeling of par-
icipation in the convention.

On Friday evening the Women's Missionary Society
esented an especially interesting program with Mr.
unshi Tudu of the Santal Mission as the principal
eaker. He held the convention spellbound with his
ealistic description of life in India and the special need
Christian mission work there.

On Saturday morning delegates gathered for a Holy

Communion service. Pastor Eugene LeVine delivered a
fine sermon on the theme, "Every Man Is Tempted." In
the evening there was an evangelistic service with an
earnest appeal by the preacher of the evening, Pastor
Oscar E. Johnson, for giving first loyalty to Christ. Ser-
vices on Sunday began with a Sunday School service for
which Pastor Edward Eskildsen and Mr. Munshi Tudu
were speakers. At 10:30 a.m. there was the morning wor-
ship service with Pastor Leo H. Andersen delivering an
inspiring sermon. At this service an offering was taken
for the District. In the afternoon the convention ended
with a sermon by Pastor L. M. Nielsen and the official
closing of the convention by the District President.

Though there was not a great deal of business to be
passed by the convention this year, a number of import-
ant matters were discussed. Election results were as fol-
lows: Pastor Christian Bertelsen was re-elected Secre-
tary of the District. Mr. Walter Junker and Mr. James
Beck were elected auditors, and Mr. Edwin Jorgensen
was elected representative of the District on the Bible
Camp Board.

The treasurer made a financial report with the an-
nouncement that all member churches of the district had
met or exceeded their quota for the year. A report was
made for the Pleasant Hill Bible Camp Association by
Pastor LeVine who made an appeal for support of the
Bible Camp and especially for meeting our part of the
obligation in building a new dormitory for which the Il-
linois District had agreed to pay for labor while the
Augustana Synod furnish the materials. It was decided
to support the Bible Camp with \$1000 for the year. The
constitution of the Bible Camp was discussed with the
recommendations that it be altered to ensure that control
of the Bible Camp remain in the hands of the U.E.L.C.

(Concluded on page 13)

THE LUTHER LEAGUE

Homer Larsen, Editor

TO OUR LEAGUERS

Dear Leaguers,

This letter is to inform you of the new plan concerning the Christmas Chimes for 1954. In the past two years The Luther League has lost \$1,500 on the Chimes. In view of the situation the Executive Committee has worked out a new plan whereby The Luther League can erase most of the debt incurred.

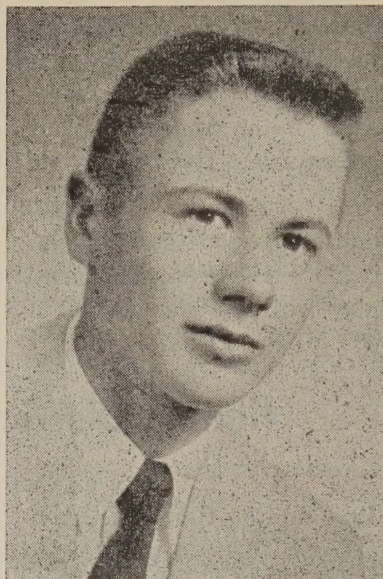
1. This year we are going to print only 5,000 copies of the Chimes. It was noticed in the past that approximately the same amount was sold regardless of the number printed. This is the reason for printing the above number.
2. In previous years **discounts** had been offered to Leagues selling the most Chimes. This will be discontinued for two very good reasons: a.) While this system motivated many to sell the Chimes, it is not the right motive. The motive in selling Christmas Chimes is to place good Christian reading material into the homes to enrich the Christmas season. b.) When the National Lutheran League gives discounts to local leagues, we are in essence giving ourselves a discount on a project which every league should support wholeheartedly.
3. No copies of the Chimes will be returnable. In the past two years almost 1,000 copies of the total printed were left over. This causes us to lose money on the Chimes.
4. The last point is where the district presidents fit into the new plan. The Executive Committee thought it good to have the competition on a district basis. We would like each district to be responsible for promotional rewards to the league that sells the most Chimes. Each district is entitled to form their own prize. However, we suggest that the prize be an inexpensive travelling trophy which would travel from one winning league to another. Then if one league has won it three times the league has the privilege to keep it. This will cost the district almost nothing and save the national treasury many dollars.

This plan is outlined to give the right motivation in selling the Chimes and also to help erase the big debt which we have. I hope this plan will be satisfactory to you and that you will support it. More information will be coming your way soon.

Sincerely in Him,

Donald Olsen
V. Pres., Nat'l L.L.
Chimes Promotion

JIM THOMSEN WINS WISCONSIN DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP



Jim Thomsen, the son of Pastor and Mrs. J. Harry Thomsen, Denmark, Wisconsin, was born at Luck, Wis. and received his grade School training at Poy Sippi, Wisconsin and his High School training at Berlin, Wisconsin and Denmark, Wisconsin.

Jim has taken an active interest in church work and for a time was president of the Luther League at Denmark. Without hesitation Jim chose Dana

college, partly because of the sincere recommendations from both his brother Mark and his sister Carol, who attended there, and his own observations when out there on visits.

This year he was awarded the Wisconsin District Luther League Scholarship. Congratulations, Jim!

Jim loves athletics and in High School as well as at College has been playing first string in football and basketball, as quarterback and forward respectively.

As his brother Mark, Jim has decided on full time service for his Lord, probably as pastor, doctor, missionary or teacher of religion.

ATLANTIC DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTION

The Atlantic District Luther League Convention for 1954 was held September 2-5, in conjunction with the Atlantic District Convention at Falmouth, Maine. There were some thirty young people present, including our friends from Canada. The theme chosen for the convention was, "You Shall Be My Witnesses." This theme was carried out by each of our speakers, especially in each evening inspirational service. We were very pleased to have with us during the convention Pastor Theodore Maakestad of the Lutheran Bible Institute who led the young people in Bible study each morning. The young people also discussed how to better their own league.

Friday afternoon all the young people drove out to one of the famous lighthouses found in New England. There we had a shell hunt along the rocky shore. Saturday afternoon the young people took a lectured sail out in Historic Casco Bay. On this sail we passed an old fort built during the time of the Civil War. The sail was im-

essive as one could look in to the mainland and see the beauty of the trees in the distance.

Saturday night after the service we had a wiener roast back of the parsonage and we sang choruses about the lake.

The climax for our Luther League Convention was Friday afternoon as the service was conducted by the young people with Pastor Maakestad as guest speaker.

It was agreed that the convention for 1955 would be held in Salmonhurst, Canada.

Many of our Atlantic District Luther Leaguers had the opportunity to attend Bible Camp during the week of July 4 at Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire. Camp Winni is sponsored by the Atlantic District and the Lutheran Bible Institute. This year the camp was divided into three groups: the children's, the Hi-Leaguers, and the adult group. The group called the Hi-Leaguers offered a most interesting program for our young people.

Pastor L. Henry Nielsen, a teacher at the Lutheran Bible Institute, led the first class in a study of Bible Characters, which was very instructive and helpful. The second class was alternately led by Pastor and Mrs. Clarence T. Nelson of the Augustana Lutheran Church in Washington, D. C., who spoke on the theme of the Christian Home. We felt very privileged to hear the Nelsons, as they have been much in demand for speaking engagements. From that class we saw what a great influence the Christian Home has, in the everyday witness it bears.

The afternoons were spent in recreation, such as swimming, soft ball, hikes, and the like. After supper was the surprise hour, which consisted of a Galilean service given at the lake shore, seeing slides of the Nelsons' trip to the Holy Land, and many other things. Following this the young people had "Fireside Chats" each evening, led by Pastor Eric Christensen of Toronto, Canada.

The final night at Winni climaxed the whole week, as a very impressive candlelight consecration service closed our mountain-top experience of getting into the Word.

NEBRASKA DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE HOLDS CONVENTION

The Nebraska District Luther League met in convention at Bethany Lutheran Church near Ruskin on October 28-30, with the theme "Rejoice, the Lord is King."

Our National Luther League Youth Director, Pastor George Robertson, brought the messages on Thursday evening, Friday evening and twice on Saturday morning. On Saturday morning at 8:30 we met in the church parlors of the Bethany Lutheran Church for a breakfast with a program planned by the local league. At the breakfast Pastor Robertson spoke on "Trained and Equipped to Win." The convention closed on Saturday morning with a communion service at which Pastor Robertson spoke on "Guests of the King." A feature of the Friday afternoon program was a discussion period, with a division into four groups each led by leaguers. The topics were "How can a Christian Get more Out of His Bible." Following a period of discussion each group reported back to the whole group their findings and summaries. Pastor James Olsen was in charge of this discussion period.

Before the business session of Friday morning, Pastor Jerrold Elling led in a devotional period. At the business session a change in the constitution proposed at last year's convention was voted upon favorably. This allows each league a delegate per 10 leaguers rather than per 25 as previously. At the election on Friday afternoon Pastor Eugene Wekander was reelected president; Miss Frances Mason of Fremont was elected secretary; Pastor James Olsen was reelected to the Bible Camp Committee; and Pastor Virgil Anderson was elected to fill the unexpired term of Vice President Clarence Lund. Other officers of the district Luther League are Merete Nielsen at Dana College, treasurer, and D'Arlene Morton of Blair, leaguer member of the Bible Camp Board.

We rejoiced in our convention because of the blessing of God through both Word and Sacrament. We enjoyed the fine hospitality of Bethany Lutheran Church and its pastor and wife, Pastor and Mrs. Immanuel Petersen.

We looked forward to God's continued blessing of our youth work in the Nebraska District and plan to meet in convention next year, God willing, at First Lutheran Church in Fremont.

WISCONSIN DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE REPORT

By Paul G. Rasmussen Jr.

The 39th Annual Convention of the Wisconsin District Luther League was held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Racine, Wisconsin, Nov. 4-6. It was a fine, spirited convention and we are thankful to Pastor Cornelius Hansen and host Leaguers for making our stay so pleasant and interesting. It was a well-attended convention too, with about 60 Leaguers registered and about ten pastors present at the sessions. The convention was officially opened by the League President, Pastor Robert Berthelsen of Milwaukee, who welcomed the Leaguers and expressed the hope that we would have a good and blessed time. The theme of the devotional part of the convention centered in the thought: REJOICE IN THE LORD, and we learned that only a Christian can really rejoice. Pastor Roland Hansen, Brooklyn, Wis., preached the opening sermon Thursday evening on the subject: Christian Joy. Following the opening service, a "mixer" was held in the church parlors during which we had a chance to renew old acquaintances from former conventions and make new friends.

The following morning we had an inspiring Bible Study on First John emphasizing the theme: JOY COMPLETE. This study was led by Pastor L. M. Andersen, Racine, Wisconsin. He showed how true Christian joy is complete in God's light and Word, which guides us in thinking straight. Our joy is complete, he said, because we have the assurance of God's love for unworthy sinners manifested in the Living Christ.

Pastor LeRoy Anderson, Pewaukee, Wis., spoke in behalf of the National Luther League, reviewing the various aspects of the National League's work and projects, such as Christmas Chimes, One Magazine, and our mission projects in South America and Japan. He also urged

(Continued on page 15)

BY THE FIRESIDE

GRATITUDE

"Do you give thanks for this?—or that?" No, God be thanked
I am not grateful
In that cold, calculating way, with blessings ranked
As one, two, three, and four—that would be hateful.

I only know that every day brings good above
My poor deserving;
I only feel that in the road of life true love
Is leading me along and never swerving.

Whatever gifts and mercies to my lot may fall,
I would not measure
As worth a certain price in praise, or great or small;
But take and use them all with simple pleasure.

For when we gladly eat our daily bread, we bless
The hand that feeds us;
And when we tread the road of life in cheerfulness,
Our very heartbeats praise the Love that leads us.

—Henry Van Dyke.

HOME FOR THANKSGIVING

By Alice Musholt

There comes a day when you have a special song in your heart. It's the day you drive through the countryside, colored brown and bronze and orange.

A day when the trees have shed most of their leaves and the barren limbs stand grotesquely silhouetted against the slate-gray sky. When the earth awaits its new winter costume, clothed only in symmetrical shocks of ripened corn.

A day when the engine of a train, looking like a toy in the distance, whistles cheerfully around the blue-hazed hill and comes puffing across the prairie.

It's a day when the smoke curls gracefully from the chimneys of cottages snugly nestled against the ground. When the first falling nowflakes form dainty white figures patterned prettily against the panes. When little brown squares along the garden walks are reminiscent of past-season's flowers.

A day when the fire crackles cheerfully in the fireplace and your puppy curls up on the shaggy rug to warm his frosty nose. The day you gallop joyfully through the woods on horseback, with the fresh, tangy wind blowing briskly against your cheeks.

It's the day you're glad you put up your storm windows. And the day you feel proud of the canned fruit and vegetables brightly lining your pantry shelves.

It's the day you don your warm

woolen clothes and put on your knit mittens and scarf.

It's the day the little red schoolhouse looks so cheerful, hugging the winding lane, its walls still decorated with the fast fading leaves of fall. The day the cheeks of children are red as the ripe rosy apples stored away in the farmers' bins.

The day when the table is filled with especially tempting dishes. With turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce and stuffed celery, with steaming pudding and tasty homemade pies.

The day when you see bright orange pumpkins in the field, like buttons down a dark brown dress.

It's the day when your heart swells with gratitude for all these things. The day you go "home for Thanksgiving."

—Selected.

THANKFUL HENRY

Matthew Henry, the famous scholar was once accosted by thieves and robbed of his purse. He wrote these words in his diary:

"Let me be thankful; first, because I was never robbed before; second, because, although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was who was robbed, not I who robbed.

—Church of Ireland Gazette.

WITNESS

If a person is a socialist or a communist I will know it in 24 hours; if he

is a member of a labour union I will know it within a few days; but if he is a member of a Christian church it may be years before I will ever learn of it.

—The Presbyterian Record.

THE OLD STORY

When Adam came home late, Eve nagged him, "Who

Have you been with? What woman?

Don't tell fibs!"

Says Adam, "Dear, there is no one but you."

Eve, unconvinced, begins to count his ribs!"

MOLDING INFLUENCE

The steel that has suffered most is the best steel. It has been in the furnace again and again; it has been on the anvil; it has been tight in the jaws of the vice; it has felt the teeth of the rasp; it has been heated and hammered and filed until it does not know itself, and it comes out a splendid knife. And if men only knew it, what are called their "misfortunes" are God's best blessings, for they are the molding influences which give them shapeliness and edge, and durability, and power.

—Henry Ward Beecher.

The lady was touched by the tramp's decrepit appearance. "I think you can use these old trousers," she said. "They're quite good and only need a little mending."

"That'll be fine, mum," replied the tramp. "I'll call back in about an hour, and you have them ready then."

THANKSGIVING

Some praise for the sweetness of the earth.

Sun-splashed or drenched with dew; Its hills, its fields, its quiet country lanes—

I thank him for these, too.

Some praise him for the energy of life;

For simple tasks to do;

For all the bright abandonment of health—

I thank him for these, too.

Some praise him for the kindly clasp of hands,

For friendships, tried and true;

For children's faces, laughing in the light—

I thank him for these, too.

But, most, I praise him for a lonely hill,

And One who died for me.

Sometimes I think my grateful heart must burst—

All this—and Calvary.

—Helen Frazee-Bower.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

(From page 9)

It was decided that all pastors serving within the Illinois District and belonging to the U.E.L.C., though not serving congregations, should receive payment for traveling expenses to the district convention of five cents a mile. A vote of thanks was expressed to Pastor Harold Andersen, who resigned as Pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church in Indianapolis to accept a call to a U.L.C.A. church in Portland, Indiana, for his services to the district. A welcome was extended to Pastor Eskildsen, called to be pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church in Indianapolis.

The Northwest Trinity Lutheran Church of Detroit made a report of gratifying progress for the year. A report was made by the Lutheran Home for the Aged in Edmore, Mich. with an announcement of improvements being made in facilities. Two invitations for the convention next year were received from congregations in Clifton, Ill., and Edmore, Mich. The invitation of the Edmore congregation was accepted.

The fine food at the convention was appreciated. The efficient and friendly hospitality of the Atonement congregation in their new church did much to make this convention a memorable one.

"Now, Teddy," asked Miss Ames, "to what family does the whale belong?"

"I don't know," replied Teddy. "Nobody in our neighborhood has a whale."

WANTED TO BUY

Used white surplices or youth choir robes (not black). Need at least 14—ages from 8-14. Please write stating price to Mrs. K. Nyegaard, 169 Jefferson Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.

DANSK NYTAAR

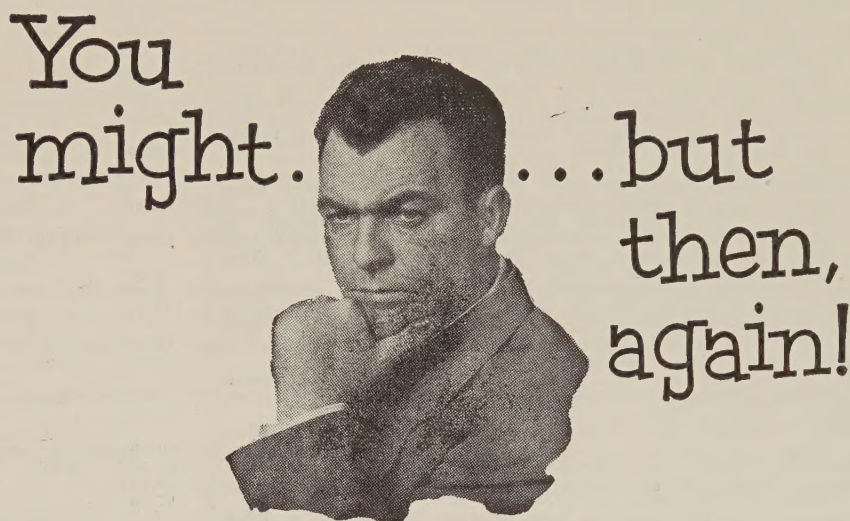
Here is a book for those who read Danish. Containing stories, articles, interviews, information about Denmark, Danes in America and many other interesting features, this book makes a wonderful Christmas gift for Danish friends and relatives in the United States or Denmark.

This year's edition contains 176 pages with more than one hundred pictures, some in four colors. Last year two editions were completely sold out within a few weeks, and many late orders could not be filled. Order your copies now. If you plan to send them to Denmark you must do so soon.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

(Continued from page 6)

Louise Larsen	30.00				30.00				
Fresno, Calif., Grace Luth. Church	193.42	13.42	60.00		60.00				60.
Waupaca, Wis., Bethel Ladies Aid of Trinity Luth. Church	10.00						5.00	5.00	
Denver, Colo., the W.M.S. of First Bethany Luth. Church in memory of									
Petrina Lund	25.00						25.00		
Racine, Wis., friends in Our Savior's Luth. Church in memory of Mrs.									
Rosenberg	15.00					15.00			
Shelby, Ia., United Workers in the United Ev. Luth. Church for the Elk									
Horn Home	20.00	20.00							
Atlantic, Ia., St. Paul's Ladies Aid for the Elk Horn and Oaks Homes	75.00	75.00							
TOTAL	67137.84	4377.83	24616.75	6741.67	16171.96	2667.78	641.12	11920.	

SPECIAL MISSIONS	Total Received	Japan Mission	South Amer. Mission	Santal Mission	Sudan Mission	Jewish Mission	China Mission	N.L.C. and L.W.A.	Gen. F. Foreign Mission
Budget for 1954-1955		16000.00	15500.00	10000.00	15000.00			36720.00	
Previously acknowledged	52618.20	7558.78	4835.80	5428.93	6660.16	316.45	99.42	27415.66	303.0
Waupaca, Wis., Trinity Luth. Sunday School	30.00			30.00					
Cushing, Wis., First Ev. Luth. Sunday School, Cradle Roll Mite									
Box offering	8.03			8.03					
Westbrook, Me., Trinity Luth. Ladies Aid	75.00	25.00			25.00			25.00	
Selma, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Hougaard and Mr. and Mrs.									
Alvin Merrell in memory of Mrs. A. P. Sontum, Petaluma,	5.00		5.00						
Calif.									
Elk Horn, Ia., in memory of C. C. Nelsen for the Parkjuli Mis-	52.25			52.25					
sion from a large group of friends									
Elk Horn, Ia., in memory of Hans P. Larsen for the Parki-	7.00			7.00					
juli Mission from friends	40.00			40.00					
Minneapolis, Minn., Dr. and Mrs. Silas Andersen									
Coalridge, Mont., Emmaus Luth. Sunday School—special project,	40.00				40.00				
training a child at school in the Sudan Mission									
Kenmare, N. Dak., Nazareth Luth. Church, from friends in									
Kenmare in memory of Mrs. Margit Nelson, Woodburn, Ore.	13.00	13.00							
Council Bluffs, Ia., Mrs. Anna Hansen in memory of Mrs.									
Christina M. Jensen, Neola, Ia.	5.00		5.00						
Coulter, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Brown of Nazareth Church	5.00			5.00					
Parler, Calif., Jewish Mission Society, offering at fall meeting	101.21					101.21			
Chicago, Ill., Frances and Edwin Jorgensen in memory of Nels									
T. Larsen, Selma, Calif.	10.00			10.00					
Underwood, Ia., Mrs. Laura Jensen	25.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00			
Blair, Nebr., Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Johnson in memory of Pastor									
Henry Iversen	5.00	5.00							
Dickson, Alberta, Can., the Sunday School	28.25			14.00	14.25				
Dickson, Alberta, Can., Women's Missionary Society for Bona									
Tem	60.00								
Standard, Alberta, Can., Howard Rasmussen	100.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00				
Dickson, Heckly and Kevilsville Sunday School Rally	26.24		26.24						
Falmouth, Me., Emmaus Luth. Sunday School	37.70							37.70	
Lincoln, Nebr., Our Savior's Luth. Sunday School for a Bible									
Evangelist in Sudan	50.00				50.00				
Fresno, Calif., Mrs. Marie K. Jensen in memory of her husband									
Chris Jensen	100.05		25.05	25.00	25.00	25.00			
Neola, Ia., St. Paul's Luth. Shurch, proceeds from a Garden									
Festival	116.42	116.42							
Harlan, Ia., Immanuel Sunday School	12.50		12.50						
Beresford, S. D., the North Circle of Nazareth Luth. Church	55.00			55.00					
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Trinity Luth. Ladies Aid	60.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00				
Minneapolis, Minn., Mrs. Alvin Hansen in memory of her par-									
ents, Mr. and Mrs. Christ Mogensen, Evan, Minn., on her	50.00	12.50		12.50	12.50		12.50		
mother's birthday, December 6th	131.96	111.15							
Norwalk, Calif., Trinity Luth. Church								20.81	
Norma, N. D., Norma Junior Mission for support of Astiro in	40.00				40.00				
the Sudan Mission	400.00			400.00					
Fremont, Nebr., Mrs. Elsie Planz, a refund to the Santal Mission	20.00							20.00	
Brush, Colo., Mr. and Mrs. Henry Litzenberger									
Tokio, Japan, Pvt. Erland L. Tanderup in memory of Charley	5.00		5.00						
H. Petersen, Viborg, S. D.									
Graettinger, Ia., family and friends in memory of John Han-	49.50			49.50					
sen of St. Paul's Luth. Church	32.00	7.00	5.00	5.00	5.00			10.00	
Fremont, Nebr., Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Madsen									
Life Membership for the president of the Pacific District W.	6.75					6.75			
M. S., Mrs. Mary Lundsberg, Los Angeles	20.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00				
Waupaca, Wis., Bethel Ladies Aid of Trinity Luth. Church	15.00			10.00	5.00				
Milwaukee, Wis., the W.M.S. of Kingo Luth. Church									
Denver, Colo., the W.M.S. of First Bethany Luth. Church: \$25	50.00	25.00	25.00						
in memory of A. Devold and \$25 in memory of Mrs. J. M.									
Thomsen									
Life Membership for Miss Cecilia Petersen of Pella Luth.	6.75		6.75						
Church, Omaha, Nebr.									
Life Membership for Mrs. Christine Petersen of Dannebrog	6.75		6.75						
Sunshine Circle	25.00				25.00				
Beresford, S. Dak., Town Circle of Nazareth Luth. Church									
TOTAL	54544.56	7923.85	5008.09	6202.21	7011.91	454.41	111.92	27529.17	303.0

LAUNDRY AND EQUIPMENT AT OAKS, OKLA.

	Total Received	Dana Building Fund	Church Exten- sion Fd.
Previously acknowledged			\$271.00
The Pacific District W.M.S.			150.00
Total			\$421.00

Received with thanks.

Blair, Nebr., November 13, 1954.

H. J. Hansen, Treasurer

OUR LUTHERAN WITNESS TO LATIN AMERICANS

(Continued from page 7)

New Testament with the preaching of works of mercy, with the recital of the Beatitudes, with something equal to and at times superior to that which is said from the pulpits of Catholic Churches.

"Why don't we let them? We ought to feel like brothers to them, in a Christian sense; or like friends in a republican and human sense. How frequently, and in how many ways are they not better than we!" (El Tiempo, April 20, 1945.)

No Attack Against Catholicism

Let it be said once for all that our message is a positive preaching of the Word. We do not attack the Catholic faith from our pulpits, nor do we directly proselyte faithful practicing Catholics. The great majority of Colombians, even though

nominal Catholics, are not active in the voluntary practice of that faith. Some are definitely anti-Roman. It is especially toward this indifferent or anti-clerical majority that the Evangelical message has been directed.

Nearly a century ago the Presbyterians made their first beginnings of missionary work in Colombia. Today twenty-three different Protestant mission organizations are working here, in nearly all parts of the country.

The CEDEC (Evangelical Federation of Colombia) Census Committee reports a Protestant communicant membership of 12,000, a weekly attendance at religious services of over 50,000 Colombians and about 750 foreigners. It estimates the total Protestant constituency at over 100,000 people.

—The Missionary.

THOUGHTS ON THANKSGIVING

(Continued from page 3)

3. A refusal to share is a denial of faith.
 4. The roles of parties involved in sharing can change—the helped may become a helper; the helper may some day need help.
 5. It isn't important which end of the line we're on; it's only important that we keep the witness of God's love flowing. He eventually will even things up!
 6. **There is no end to this process;** it is inherent in—and inseparable from the practice of Christianity.
- In church this morning we were told that in Lutheran World Action we give to our brethren in Europe knowing that we will never get anything in return. In the context of

the sermon, that is correct. Yet in another sense we receive far more than we give! For even as we encourage them with generosity, they respond with a demonstration of courage, sacrifice, patience, and devotion that shames us while it inspires us. Do you understand this two-way process of dynamic Christianity and fulfill your part in it? I know that I fall far short!

I, like other Americans, am thankful that I am on the giving end of the line. Yet down in my heart I know I shall not fully reach Christian maturity and understand the Cross until I experience being on the receiving end of the line, too. Meanwhile, thanksgiving and sharing must go hand in hand! Only thus can my share of America's high standard of living become tolerable before God and men.

WISCONSIN DISTRICT LUTHER LEAGUE REPORT

(Continued from page 11)

is to plan now to attend the Annual Convention of the National Luther League which is to be held in Blair, Nebraska in the spring.

Friday afternoon was given over to choir practice for the massed choir, a trip through the famous Johnson Wax Factory, and a roller skating party. In the evening we returned to the church parlors for the Banquet. Pastor Karl Wilhelmsen, Racine, Wis. presided as toastmaster, while Pastor LeRoy Andersen brought the main

message which reminded us again of the all-important need to have our full joy in the Lord. Nothing else will satisfy. The special music and solo selections were provided by local Leaguers.

The Saturday morning session concluded the Bible Study and Business session. Pastor Roland Hansen was elected president and Carol Nielsen, Racine, Wis. was elected treasurer. The other officers were not up for election. After the noon meal the convention was officially closed and we returned home, thanking God for a successful and joyous convention.

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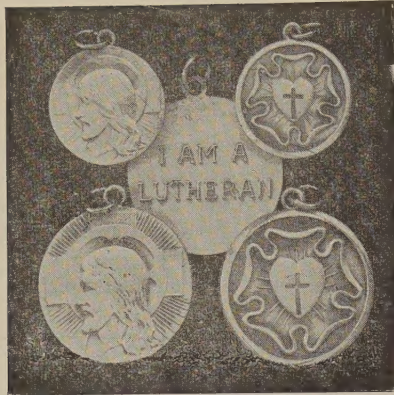
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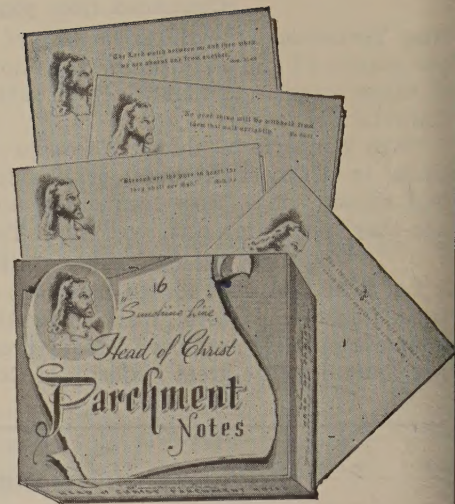
- C2-L Silvertone finish, 1" size **25c**
- SS21-L Sterling Silver, 3/4" size **75c***
- 5S2-L Sterling Silver, 1" size **\$1.25**
- RG2-L-18 Rose gold finish with matching 18" chain **\$1.00***

Chains

- CH2-L 24" beaded chain. Matches C2-L medallion above **35c**
- 1156 18" Silver finish chain with clasp **38c***
- 1134 24" Silver finish never-ending chain **45c***

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